

Expanding the future of Opera
through development, mentoring and advancement of volunteer service

Opera Volunteers INTERNATIONAL

www.OperaVolunteers.org



The Opera Volunteer Voice

Spring 2013
Vol. 37, Number 2

The official quarterly
newsletter of
Opera Volunteers
International

Publication dates:
Spring, Summer,
Autumn,
and Winter

What's Inside This Issue:

President's Message	2
Dr. Charles Barber on volunteers	3
IRS tips	4
Partners in Excellence	5
Matching Grants	6, 7
Projects of Special Merit	8
Capitol City Opera	9
Regional News	10, 11

Opera Out of Bounds wherever you are



This issue celebrates "Opera Out of Bounds," the theme of Opera Volunteers International's combined conference with OPERA America taking place in Vancouver, B.C. this May. It is about taking opera beyond the confines of the opera stage and connecting with people. Whether you are attending or not, we want to bring this conference to you.

So in this issue we acknowledge and reward volunteer accomplishment, report on noteworthy achievements, and give you important information you can use to expand and promote the reach of opera. Our next issue will have more information on what we learned, experienced and shared in Vancouver. We look to you to let us know what you and your volunteer groups are doing in your area.

Opera Conference 2013 is going to be terrific! Intriguing opera, programs and events by both Opera America and OVI. And spectacular Vancouver, British Columbia! OVI has a jam-packed schedule of events to choose from in Vancouver - not only volunteer sessions, but events that highlight this extraordinary city.

A Small Sampling: Our first day begins with the OVI board meeting and ends with a sunset harbor cruise before attending our Awards Dinner. In addition to daily general sessions, on Thursday we will take in a special presentation of Vancouver Opera's *Naomi's Road*, a 45 minute opera, performed in local schools to promote cultural understanding and compassion. In the evening there will be a performance of Tan Dun's *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* and an intermission reception with the **Vancouver Opera Guild**. On Friday, **Dr. Charles Barber** (see p 3), internationally renowned speaker and artistic director of **Vancouver City Opera**, will discuss how volunteers can be utilized to create deeper and broader impact in communities. **Brandon Gryde**, Opera America Director of Government Affairs, will speak to the role volunteers can play in raising awareness and support of opera.

Opera Volunteers
International
recognizes and congratulates

Roy Fisher



on receiving
the
**President's
Volunteer
Service
Award**

Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org

We hope that you will all want to see Vancouver Opera's stunning production of Tan Dun's :

Tea: A Mirror of Soul

Performances are on May 7, 9 and 11

Welcome to the Conference



OVI President,
Julie Benson

Welcome to OPERA America's Opera Conference 2013 co-hosted by Vancouver Opera in association with Opera Volunteers International. Opera Conference 2013: *Opera Out of Bounds* expands the definition of opera beyond the traditions of the art form and extends the reach of companies from the opera house to the entire city.

Since 1972, OVI has gathered in cities far and wide in partnership with local opera support groups. We have enjoyed attending opera and learning new volunteer techniques to support the art form we all love, and at the same time, we have made wonderful friendships and have connected with opera enthusiasts from all continents. This year, we are thrilled to partner with OPERA America and Vancouver Opera.

Special thanks go to OPERA America for this opportunity. An enormous amount of time has been spent planning the conference and for that my deepest gratitude goes to those planning the conference. Vancouver and Vancouver Opera Guild have rolled out the red carpet. We could not be more excited. On behalf of OVI, many thanks to all of those involved in making this happen.

We look forward to celebrating Opera Conference 2013 in Vancouver. Join me as we honor the 2013 OVI award winners and enjoy this fabulous city and fantastic opera company.

Thank you for coming and 'enjoy the show.'

Julie Ann Benson
OVI President

Welcome to Vancouver



Vancouver Opera Guild
President,
Gwyneth Westwick

We in the Vancouver Opera Guild are delighted to be hosting the OVI portion of Opera Conference 2013 and want to do all we can to make your stay in Vancouver both enjoyable and memorable.

One of our members, **David Steiner**, will lead early morning walking tours each day in "one

of the most beautiful downtown waterfronts in the world." We are also organizing a professionally led afternoon walking tour of Vancouver's Chinatown, the largest in Canada, with the possibility of staying on for a meal in one of its many restaurants.

You'll want to see Stanley Park, whether by bus or horse-drawn carriage, or even on foot - a seven-mile circuit with terrific views of the mountains and Burrard Inlet. 55-acre Van Dusen Botanical Garden is a must see and in May the rhododendron walk should be glorious! Queen Elizabeth Park offers spectacular views of the city, beautiful sunken formal gardens, and at Bloedel Conservatory a lush variety of tropical and desert plants, with over 100 exotic birds flying freely among them. Downtown, there is the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden. The Museum of Anthropology houses a world-famous collection of West Coast and Pacific Rim aboriginal artifacts, and the UBC Botanical Garden offers a tree canopy walk. Granville Island--right in the centre of Vancouver, once an industrial wasteland, now a vibrant community with a public market, theatres, boutiques, a kids' market, artists' studios, restaurants, a floating houseboat "village," a marina, and delightful rainbow-coloured miniature ferries which transport visitors across False Creek to the downtown area. And that's just the beginning!

Thank you for visiting Vancouver!
We look forward to meeting you.

Gwyneth Westwick, President
Vancouver Opera Guild

Tapping the Connectors: Volunteers and Community Engagement



Dr. Charles Barber

City Opera Vancouver is a professional chamber opera company. We specialize in rare and unusual music, with an emphasis on Canadian themes and artists. We work in small arenas, and value an intimate eloquence.

fundraising committee. They secure invitations to speak and perform before groups of every kind in Metro. They design logos, serve as webmaster, create brand and identity, make costumes, run titling boards, recommend repertoire, attend workshops and comment in depth and detail on our works-in-progress, and provide a range of FOH services. They recommend singers and directors. They propose stories. They advocate for composers. And much more.

Apart from numerous concerts and recitals across Metro Vancouver, we have given the Canadian premiere of *A Singalong Carmina Burana*; the BC premiere of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*; the Canadian event premiere of *Sumidagawa & Curlew River*; the world premiere of our first commission, *Fallujah*; and, coming next, the world premiere of Margaret Atwood's first opera, *Pauline*, with music by Tobin Stokes. We also launched a new recording series, *Canadian Classics*, on Naxos Records in September 2011. I mention these projects to give some sense of the range of our work.

In all of this, there is a central principle: ownership. A commonwealth in opera.

In these economic times, volunteers build bridges of every kind that no budget could ever afford.

Our volunteers are asked to enroll as a statement of belief. It is their enacted faith in opera as art and tradition. In this process, honoured over months and years, every volunteer comes to assume ownership of City Opera Vancouver. And this has been central to our success.

In every time, they are essential to our success, and our ambition.

We began life just five years ago. In a short time, we have achieved much. We would have achieved nothing without the loyal, informed and active direction of volunteers.

In all of this, volunteers were and are essential. In all of this, we could have achieved only much less, or nothing, without these many good people.

In these economic times, volunteers build bridges of every kind that no budget could ever afford.

Ours is a working board. Every director has work to do, and a job assignment.

In these parlous times, volunteers are ambassadors for the company, moving us into places far from theatre and music, but deep into the community that sustains us.

But those volunteers who are not on the board, also work. They chauffeur our visiting artists. They chair our

In every time, they are essential to our success, and our ambition.



- 1) How can volunteers become owners?
- 2) How can volunteers see a career path within the company?
- 3) How can they be asked to adjudicate work-in-progress, and work-on-stage?
- 4) How can they best be trained and supported?
- 5) How can they best be listened to, consulted, and involved?
- 6) No less importantly, how can they be thanked in new ways – ways that are deeply personal, and funny, and vivid and memorable?

2013 Partners in Excellence Awardees

Lynn Guggolz
Dianne Rubin

Marion Pickering Couch
Lore Hoffmann

Leatrice Taylor Damus

The prestigious Opera Volunteers International *Partners in Excellence Award* program recognizes individuals who have given extraordinary volunteer service to opera in their communities or groups observing special anniversaries.

The awardees of this once-in-a-lifetime honor will be acknowledged at the Opera Volunteers International Awards Dinner at Opera Conference 2013 in Vancouver this month.



VOLUNTEER CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

What the IRS allows, what you may have overlooked

Gerald Elijah shares his opinions and recommendations

First, some general rules:

To be deductible, charitable contributions must be made to qualified organizations. Payments to individuals are never deductible. If your contribution entitles you to goods or services, you can only deduct the amount that exceeds the fair market value of the benefit received (this applies to membership dues as well). You must maintain a record of the contribution or a written communication from the organization containing the name of the organization, the date and amount of the contribution. In addition to cash contributions you can generally deduct the fair market value of any other property donated to qualified organizations. For any amount of \$250 or more you must obtain and keep in your records a written acknowledgment from the qualified organization indicating the amount of cash and a description of any property contributed, and whether the organization provided any goods or services in exchange for the contribution and a good faith estimate of the value of these goods or services.

The future rules remain cloudy as Congress renews the budget debates, but the above rules currently apply, and it would be prudent to maintain your personal records in accordance in order to maximize your potential for savings by itemizing your deductions now and in the future. As always, follow the advice of your tax advisor—or you may want to look into the purchase of one of the

excellent and inexpensive tax preparation software packages that are now available. (I found I was doing so much preparation for my tax advisor that I might as well do the work myself!)

Charitable tax deductions include:

1. Out-of-pocket expenses relating to charitable activities, including miles traveled to and from the location where you provided volunteer services. This latter is frequently overlooked, as are other incidental contributions you make and do not receive reimbursement for.
2. Cost of meals, accommodations, public transportation and gas when you have to travel for the sole purpose of volunteering and you are not reimbursed for that. Do NOT include the cost of any entertainment however.
3. All the costs for donated goods and services (for example, office supplies, printing, meals or food donated for events or rehearsal dinners, etc.) As always you must maintain meticulous records of your expenditures, and supporting documents from the organization authorizing or requesting them. **YOU MAY NOT DEDUCT VOLUNTEER HOURS, HOWEVER.**
4. Less frequent, but still appropriate, you may deduct appraisal fees for charitable donations or for appreciation on property donated to charity.

Lynn Guggolz

Houston Grand Opera Guild

Lynn has been working for the Houston Grand Opera and the HGO Guild in a volunteer capacity for over 30 years. She was an active volunteer in the Guild’s Hospitality program hosting numerous artists and serves on the Board to plan the Guild’s Annual Meeting. She is Special Events VP and co-chaired the Spring Event . She served on HGO’s Annual Fund committee for many years and other significant fundraising and volunteer activities, including the Opera Ball for over 20 years. She is currently a Houston Grand Opera Trustee. In 2010 Lynn was the Honoree at the Guild’s Spring Event and named Volunteer of Distinction. As stated by the Houston Grand Opera Guild, they are pleased to nominate Lynn as a "true Partner in Excellence."



Marion Pickering Couch

Nashville Opera Guild

Marion has been a member of the Nashville Opera Guild since its inception in 1987, and was the Guild’s liaison for Opera Volunteers International. She has been elected as one of the two Life Members of the Opera Guild. She also initiated the Opera Study Club at the Centennial Club. In 2009, The Nashville Opera Guild awarded the Robinson Award to Marion for her unending service to the Opera. This is an annual award to honor individuals who have made tireless and significant contribution to the Nashville Opera Association. As eloquently stated, “To honor Marion Pickering Couch with Opera Volunteers International’s 2013 Partners in Excellence Award is to honor the best of the best.”



Leatrice Taylor Damus

Young Patronesses of the Opera

Leatrice “Lee” Taylor has been an admirable supporter of Opera in south Florida since 1979 and an exuberant member of all three of Florida Grand Opera’s support groups since 1980. For over 19 years Lee has served as a Ball chair and new member liaison, as well as on all their Education Committees. She has been honored with the Gold Star, an award acknowledging a member who has gone beyond the call of duty. Lee also served as a member of the Board for Florida Grand Opera and is a supporter of University of Miami’s Frost School and their Young Musician’s Camp, and is a founding member of Funding Arts Network which gives grants to local arts organizations. A testament to her hard work and dedication was the comment, “This is just a small taste of all that she has done in our community.”

Dianne Rubin

The Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund

After several officer positions with the Board of OperaBuffs of Western New York, Inc., Dianne became Co-Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Four City District of the Great Lakes Region. This important function requires not only an individual with the organizational skills to manage fundraising, but the skills to cope with: up-coming singers, volunteers, judges, travel arrangements, securing venue location, publication experience and experience in press relations with the print and electronic media. With a co-chair, Dianne “...has continued to fill all of these requirements with polite fortitude, keeping a cheery disposition while she copes with everything that arises.” Dianne was recommended “...absolutely without qualification, as someone deserving of the highest recognition for her volunteer service.”



Lore Hoffmann

Vancouver Opera Guild

Lore has been a member of the Guild since 1974 and has long been a part of the Rehearsal Refreshment Committee, which is responsible for providing catering for the Monday and Tuesday Dress Rehearsals during Tech Week. In the past nine years she has served six as Chair and three as Co-Chair of this committee, and will shortly become Chair again. Lore is also part of the Transportation Committee and has been known to be there extremely early in the morning for pickup duties. As with letter carriers, neither rain, nor snow, nor hail nor other weather-related situations prevent Lore from fulfilling her duties. Perhaps her many qualifications are best summed up by one of the comments, “If you were to ask someone to describe the ideal volunteer, you would be describing Lore. She is dedicated, hard-working and a fervent supporter of the Vancouver Opera Guild.”

Matching Grants

Group members of Opera Volunteers International can apply for a matching grant of up to \$2,000.

Projects that incorporate volunteerism in stimulating the interest in opera and its growth in their community may be candidates for such a grant.

If your member opera support group has a great project ready to go, but needs additional funds to make it happen, OVI might be able to help. Find more information on the OVI website or contact Mary Earl at 423-842-3340.

Not a member?..

What are you waiting for?

How to Contact Our Membership Vice-President:

Changed your address?
Moving soon?

Make sure you let Rhonda Sweeney know at:

membership
@operavolunteers.org
(713) 522-1669

Grant Recipients 2013

YOUNG PATRONESSES OF THE OPERA \$2,000 In-School Opera Program

Grant money used for Props, Costumes, Sets, Opera booklet, equipment and marketing.

The In-School Operas are 35 minute performances at local elementary schools and they feature a professional cast. In 2014 YPO will present *THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN*. Approximately 35 schools (70 performances total) will be included from January to March of 2014. Thousands of children, regardless of school, neighborhood or local resources gain exposure to the beauty and enrichment of live opera performances. The focus is to nurture the next generation to experience and enjoy the world of opera. Since 1975, over 300,000 children have been given the opportunity to view a professional program

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO - EDUCATION DEPT. \$2,000 Community Lectures

Grant money used for design and printing, professional lecturer training, facility expenses.

Each season, Lyric Opera presents free lectures for each of the season's eight operas at community centers, libraries, retirement centers, and select Chapter meetings in the Chicago area. During the season, 43 volunteer docents present 343 lectures at 64 locations attended by 5,542 eager participants. These lively one hour presentations feature information about the composer, librettist, and performers, the synopsis and in depth information with musical examples to increase understanding. Docents are extensively trained by the Education department. We believe in the life changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. We exist to provide a broad, deep and relevant cultural service to the region and the nation, and to advance the development of opera. We are proud to offer these Community lectures at no cost to participants in order to fulfill our mission.

Austin Lyric Opera Guild \$2,000 Opera by Night

Grant money used for postage, docent packets, CDs, DVDs and production space rental.

This program provides free in school visits by trained volunteer docents from the ALO Guild to prepare students for upcoming opera performances. The program serves about 5,000 students grades 5-12 and their families through free dress rehearsal performances. ALO distributes packets to students attending the opera to provide cultural and historical context, including music, history and art. Prior to each rehearsal, a docent will visit the school to engage students and prepare them for what is often their first live opera. Our mission is to enhance educational experiences for area students through outreach programs. Exposure to opera provides valuable benefits to students. Children who have exposure to and involvement with the arts show improvement in critical thinking, reading skills, writing skills, math skills, and emotional development. The program has increased by 20% since 2010.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TWO OVI GRANT RECIPIENTS 2013

Information provided by Suzanne Mitchell Ahn and Donna Angel

Capitol City Opera Company recipient of \$2,000

Capitol City Opera Company presented the world premiere of *THE SECRET AGENT* on March 15 and 16, 2013. This locally composed opera based on the 1907 novel by Joseph Conrad, music by Curtis Bryant and libretto by Alan Reichman has been described as the classic novel for the post 9/11 age. Approximately 30 volunteers were utilized in marketing/publicity, backstage assistance but primarily in front of house duties. Capitol City Opera's longstanding mission is to provide an outlet for local artists, singers, composers and production crew to gain professional opera experience. *The SECRET AGENT* was an opportunity to reach out to literary enthusiasts and other potential new audiences at an affordable price.

Performing Arts League Chattanooga recipient of \$1,500

Notable in the staunch support of young local vocalists is the annual Vocal Competition for high school juniors and seniors instituted by OVI member, Mary Earl, and mother of coloratura soprano, Desiree Earl Soteris. In its 18th year the 2013 competition was presented by the Performing Arts League and assisted by a first ever OVI Grant. The competition is held in January in time for results to be posted to a senior student's college application performance portfolios. Applications are sent to local vocal instructors in the school's first semester. Teachers then choose and groom students in performance protocol and preparation of two classical pieces one of which must be sung in English and one in a foreign language. The students perform for approximately 15 minutes each with an accompanist of their choosing or one provided. They perform before a live audience in front of professional out of town judges. Cash awards of \$1,000, \$500, \$300, and \$100 are awarded. Judges are available following the competition to answer questions and offer advice. Most winners go on to be accepted into the college of their choice and most receive scholarships. Approximately 46 volunteers participated in this project.



winners are shown in the photo with Pat Starke, Mary Earl and Suzanne Mitchell Ahn 2013 chairs.

OVI GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE JANUARY 1 and APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR

Projects of Special Merit 2013

The **Project of Special Merit** Award recognizes opera support groups for projects they have entirely created, implemented and successfully accomplished for their opera company.

The following have been chosen to receive Projects of Special Merit awards at the Opera Volunteers International/Opera America conference in Vancouver in May 2013. We're so proud to have such wonderful organizations as part of our membership. Their work in support of opera and education in their communities is outstanding.

Young Patronesses of the Opera, Florida In-School Opera

This program of in-school opera has been offered to an average of 30 elementary schools per year, since 1975. To date over 500,000 have seen the In-School Opera, approximately 600 children per school (18,000 children a year.)

In 2013, YPO produced the children's opera, *Papageno*, a takeoff of Mozart's "Magic Flute." The performances this year are in 30 schools, and 2 days are at a local theater where 1800 kids, many from disadvantaged neighborhoods, participate. YPO organizes, funds and produces. The opera company does not play a role. Students are provided with an opera workbook also available online for download. Teachers are provided with study guide materials. 223 volunteer members support the program.

San Francisco Opera Guild, California Integrated Marketing Program,

The project was to design a website, and materials to interface with San Francisco Opera's website, so both organizations present unified face to the community as it "relates to our respective education programs."

- ◇ The key features of the redesigned website include:
- ◇ Rotating photography, video, testimonials...
- ◇ Robust sponsor/give section...
- ◇ Education – presenting both K-12 and Adult programs. A Teaching Artists section,...
- ◇ Dedicated "Gallery" ...to view videos, photos, brochures...
- ◇ Online Transaction capability...

"The Integrated Marketing Program far exceeded our expectations...It has allowed us to present a very professional image to the community while successfully communicating our mission and showcasing our education programs."

Shreveport Opera, Louisiana Shreveport Opera Xpress (SOX),

By presenting opera in a new and fun format, the project "intends to dispel fears of opera being too different, boring, unusual or highbrow." Five young musicians are chosen from across the nation through New York City auditions. Volunteers are from the 456 member opera guild. Parents, educators and community leaders are engaged.

131 performances of the 3 original productions in the 2011-12 season reached 50,000 children throughout the state and regardless of socioeconomic factors. An added benefit is the education and recruitment of new volunteers for the opera guild.

Atlanta's Capitol City Opera Chalks Up Successful 'Secret Agent' World Premiere

"Outstanding. Exceptional. Enjoyable. A wonderful evening. Marvelous." These are just some of the comments overheard from audience members immediately after seeing the Capitol City Opera Company's world premiere performance of *The Secret Agent*, a newly completed opera based on the 1907 novel of the same name by Joseph Conrad.

The Secret Agent is a tale of intrigue, anarchy, espionage, betrayal, murder and suicide. It explores the impact of these dark and unnerving themes on human relationships. One hundred years after Conrad published his book, the story is still fresh and resonant.

Directed by **Michael Nutter**, the artistic director of Capitol City Opera, with music direction by **Catherine Giel**, the music was composed by Atlantan **Curtis Bryant**. Libretto was by New York forensic psychiatrist **Allen Reichman**.



The production featured baritone **Wade Thomas** as the spy, Adolf Verloc; soprano **Elizabeth Claxton** as Winnie Verloc; baritone **Ivan Segovia** as Karl Yundt, the man who always carries a bomb; counter-tenor **Chase Davidson** as Stevie, the tragic hero; and tenor **Timothy Miller** as Ossipan.

Working on a world premiere brought new challenges for the opera company founded by **Donna Angel**, now artistic director emeritus, that The Atlanta Journal-Constitution recently dubbed as "Atlanta's irreplaceable and irreplaceable small opera company." Nutter said there are a set level of expectations from the cast and the audience on what they will experience when staging a work that is already known. But a new work presents unknown factors.

Technically, Nutter said, *The Secret Agent's* biggest staging challenge was the last moments of the opera when Winnie jumps off a train in front of an oncoming train on the next track. "But it all came together. The orchestration sounded like a train in the theater, and the lights blinded the audience, forcing them to experience Winnie's jump," Nutter said.

Testifying to the impact of the final scene one attendee said, "I was just a member of the audience watching the action on stage until Winnie jumped. Then suddenly I felt like I was with her. The light, the sound, then nothing but the blackness of death. It was powerful conclusion."



Photo by Lita Riddock



Visit <http://www.ccityopera.org/performances/the-secret-agent/secretagentstory> to learn more about the story. Capitol City Opera is online at www.ccityopera.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CapitolCityOpera.

Partial funding for the three performances at the Conant Performing Arts Center on the campus of Atlanta's Oglethorpe University, March 15-17, was provided by a grant from Opera Volunteers International.

Notes from SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



Wilma Wilcox, South Central Regional Coordinator, visited with the **Houston Guild** on March 22 and 23 with lots of Guild activities. She was welcomed at the airport by OVI membership VP and HGO Guild member, **Rhonda Sweeney**. The Guild's Hospitality Team received an award last year for Projects of Special Merit and hospitality was also provided by Jan Upole, and OVI members **Gerry Aitken** and **Steve Brenner**, HGO Guild President. Guild volunteers hosted Houston Studio singers in a recital at the beautiful Rienzi museum of Fine Arts. Saturday the volunteers hosted a cast supper between the two performances of *Cruzar la cara de la luna*, a mariachi opera with an immigrant story spanning three generations. This opera produced in Houston has traveled to Paris and San Diego, and at **Lyric Opera Chicago**. Cruzar sung in Spanish and English with titles bridges a widely diverse population in Houston. "Please invite me to your Guild and I will try to organize a trip there later this year" says Wilma.



Eleven members of the **Opera Theatre of St. Louis Guild** traveled to **Kansas City, Missouri** to attend *The Flying Dutchman* at the new Kauffman Performing Arts Center in March. They were hosted at a dinner and at the Guild Room during the intermission. OVI member **Robert Wagoner**, president of the St. Louis Guild, and OVI member **Karen Crebs** were part of the group. It was a great opportunity to meet other OVI and Guild members.

Austin Lyric Opera Guild Dinner and Wine Auction a Wild Success!

by Madeline Nash

On the evening of February 23, 2013, the Austin opera crowd and guests descended on the Four Seasons for the most exciting fundraiser of the year, the **Austin Lyric Opera Guild's** Fine Wine Dinner and Auction. Volunteers, led by event chairs **Richard Hartgrove, Scott Ballew, Susan Gatlin, and Marilyn Davis Rabkin**, worked long hours in the months leading up to this event to ensure its success and to properly honor **David Jabour** and **Twin Liquors** for years of support—not only for the opera, but for non-profit organizations throughout Austin. Internationally-renowned tenor, **Stephen Costello**, performed. Preliminary figures anticipate the Guild bringing in well over \$200,000 for the benefit of Austin Lyric Opera, an extraordinary accomplishment.

The night ended with as much energy and excitement as the beginning. The Wine Dinner and Auction has become the event of the Austin season to attend, and with all of the new faces at this dinner, we are hopeful that we have also succeeded in growing the ALO opera family.



Sylvia and David Jabour

SOUTHEAST REGION - University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music



Peggy Paulk, OVI Gulf Regional Director, Gloria Jackson, OVI SE Regional Director, Professor Frederick Burchinal, coach/prompts, Kathryn Wright and Jody Griffin

In February **Frederick Burchinal** thrilled fellow Opera Volunteers International members from Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia with *The Magic Flute*. Energy and enthusiasm, abounded. Student opera volunteers assisted at each performance. There were only compliments and stated desires to return to Frederick's next performance. It was a wonderful production and afternoon.



Stockton Opera Guild Awards \$3000 to Promising Local Vocalists

The 13th **Stockton Opera Guild Kathe Underwood Scholarship Competition** was held February 23, 2013 at the historic St. John's Anglican Church, with judges **Layna Chianakas** of San Jose State University and **Gregory Mason**, formerly with the Sacramento Opera.

Awards and cash prizes went to **Bianca Orsi, Rebekah Thomas, Robyn Glover, Sarah Phelan, Madelaine Matej and Erika Weil**.

The Stockton Opera Guild began awarding scholarships in 2000. In addition to cash awards, winners are invited to appear at Stockton Opera Guild functions throughout the year, helping to foster the accomplishments and goals of talented, hardworking young artists in our community.

This year's competition was chaired by **Carolyn Pometta**. Committee members were **Janet Bonner, Betty MacRae, Janet Bonner, Ellen Schuler, Shirley Graese, and Yvonne Brown**, all members of the Stockton Opera Guild.

To learn more about this and other annual opera events here in Stockton, please visit www.stocktonoperaguild.org.

Nashville Opera

"LA BELLA NOTTE" the dazzling annual fund raiser for The Nashville Opera Guild was presented in late January to the theme of *The Magic Flute* And magic it was, in a fantasy of birds and tropical splendor. Chaired by creative guild member **Dancey Trabue Sanders**. **Barbara Bovender**, Honorary Chair, was recognized for her years of philanthropic opera work. The Francis Robinson award is presented at this event each year. Our recipient this year was **Dr Joseph H. Allen**, who with his late wife Bettye, a guild past president, have shown a life long dedication to the world of opera. Among our many distinguished guests were some of the cast and producers of the new ABC network television series "Nashville"



OVI Volunteers Were Key to New Opera at Capitol City Opera in Atlanta

by Gloria Jackson The Opening Night ceremonies of a new work based on Joseph Conrad's "**The Secret Agent**". included a reception with people from San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Tampa and, of course, Atlanta.

The *Secret Agent Society* highlighted **Opera Volunteers International** in several locations with familiar faces from **Atlanta Opera Guild** and **Atlanta Opera Volunteers**. Georgia State University was well represented by Composer Curtis Bryant and Carroll Freedom and his wife.

I convey the thanks of many for OVI's support and help in producing this event. Since founder, **Donna Angel** and **Capitol City Opera** is the second Georgia opera organization to join **Opera Volunteers International** just a short time ago, last night was truly amazing. Not only was the new work presented, Opera Volunteers International has grown from an unknown to a well noted participant in Atlanta's opera community.



(composer) Curtis and Nancy Bryant, Donna Angel, Bonnie LaForge, and (librettist) Allen and Harriet Reichman

Save the Dates

November 21-24, 2013 in Austin Texas

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Opera Volunteers International Focus Meeting

OVI Board Meeting

Enjoy Focus Presentations, Dinners, Tours, Events

and attend a performance of *Don Carlo* at **Austin Lyric Opera**



Opera Volunteers International

PO Box 7032

Evanston, IL 60201-2284

Address Corection Requested

Send your guild news and photos to
Newsletter Editor and Publisher:

Rick Greenman

newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Find us on the internet at
www.OperaVolunteers.org